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IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 35

BY JUDICIARY, RULES AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

STATING FINDINGS OF THE LEGISLATURE AND RECOGNIZING THE OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTIONS THAT LOUISE MCCLURE MADE TO THE PEOPLE OF IDAHO THROUGH HER SELFLESS PUBLIC SERVICE AND COMMITMENT TO THE ARTS AND RECOGNIZING MARCH 30, 2022, AS "LOUISE MCCLURE DAY" IN HONOR OF HER EXTRAORDINARY IMPACT ON IDAHO AND THE WORLD.

Be It Resolved by the Legislature of the State of Idaho:

WHEREAS, Louise Miller McClure was born March 30, 1928, in Troy, Idaho, to wheat farmers Claude and Dorothy Miller and grew up in Nezperce, Idaho, along with her older brother, Duane. She began school in a one-room school-house, riding there behind her brother on their horse. Her lifelong love of music and the arts began early, with public performances at the age of five that continued through high school by playing the piano for community dances; and

WHEREAS, in 1946, she graduated from Nezperce High School as valedictorian and continued her studies at the University of Idaho. She pursued a bachelor's degree in music and education at a time when most young women were content to find a future in their own backyards. Her time at the University of Idaho and in the Greek system as a member of the Delta Delta Delta sorority was transformative. It was during these four years that she established her reputation of leadership, commitment to service, and a life guided by fairness, intelligence, and grace. While at the University of Idaho, she captured the mind and heart of a young law student, James A. McClure. She was singing as a soprano soloist with the University of Idaho choir, the "Vandaleers," when she met Jim, who sang bass in the choir. To the joy of their friends, family, and many acquaintances throughout their lifetime, Jim and Louise often lead groups in song, from the Star Spangled Banner to the Idaho State Song and the University of Idaho Alma Mater, "Here We Have Idaho." After she graduated in 1950 with a BA degree in Music, Phi Beta Kappa, Jim and Louise married and moved to Payette, where Jim practiced law with his father; and

WHEREAS, Louise continued her enduring commitment to enriching her local community, which included joining the Payette P.E.O., Friday Musicale, a couples bridge club, and directing the church choir, while raising their three children, Marilyn, Ken, and David; and

WHEREAS, Jim was also busy starting his political career, eventually leading to state and national responsibilities. He served as the Payette County prosecuting attorney, served as an Idaho state senator, was a three-term member of Congress (1967-1972) representing the First District of Idaho, and was elected three times to the United States Senate (1973-1991). Louise was his full partner in campaigning and influencing, and, with her warm, outgoing personality, she made loyal, lifelong friends across Idaho, in Washington, D.C., and the world; and

WHEREAS, in Washington, D.C., she joined the Congressional Club and the International Club, whose members included wives of senators, congressmen, ambassadors, and journalists. The women forged influential international friendships. When Jim was elected to the Senate, Louise became actively engaged with the Senate Wives' Club, which organized to serve the International Red Cross and impact other important issues. While furthering the mission of the International Red Cross, the Senate Wives, later called Senate Spouses, hosted a First Lady Luncheon every year. These events facilitated professional networking, enhanced idea exchange, and fostered lifelong friendships, like the relationship between "Mrs. James A. McClure" and "Mrs. George H.W. Bush" and their families. Congressional families are integral to robust policymaking. Entertaining dignitaries, visiting communities, representing constituents, and advocating are all part and parcel of the job of a congressional spouse. Louise was precisely the kind of leader who led the charge into the activities that built relationships and fostered collaborations. Her service was an absolute necessity on innumerable occasions, ranging from international events to hosting dignitaries. The relationships cultivated in the International Club were so important in these settings. Louise's leadership, organization, and strategic thinking complemented and provided the kind of counsel that Senator McClure needed to navigate and negotiate a nearly 30-year stellar career in Idaho and federal politics; and

WHEREAS, Louise met a tremendous number of leaders and spouses while traveling as part of delegations and attending receptions and dinners. She had the honor and pleasure of meeting all United States presidents and first ladies from President Lyndon B. Johnson and First Lady "Lady Bird" Johnson through President George W. Bush and First Lady Laura Bush; and

WHEREAS, supporting and fostering the arts, Louise's fine arts education and talents were welcomed in Washington, D.C., and she became recognized as a champion for the arts. In 1983, she was the driving force for "Sawtooths and Other Ranges of the Imagination," an Idaho art exhibit at the Smithsonian American Art Museum in Washington, D.C. In 1991, President George H.W. Bush appointed Louise to the National Council on the Arts, the body that oversees the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA). She helped guide the NEA through a particularly challenging period during her six-year term of service. Louise was a formidable champion, advocating tenaciously to Congress and arts leadership for continued support of the NEA; and

WHEREAS, in 1990, Louise was honored to sponsor the Navy submarine U.S.S. Boise, christening it by smashing a champagne bottle across its bow, leading to lifelong relationships with its crew; and

WHEREAS, when her time in Washington, D.C., had ended, Louise focused on advancing communities and the arts in Idaho. She served on the Boise Philharmonic, Parents and Youth Against Drug Abuse, Boise State Radio, and the Women's and Children's Alliance. In 2010, Idaho Governor C.L. "Butch" Otter honored Louise and Jim by bestowing them with the Lifetime Achievement Award at the Governor's Awards in the Arts; and

WHEREAS, Louise also took great pride in serving the University of Idaho, sharing her leadership on numerous college and department advisory boards, including the University Foundation; Lionel Hampton Jazz Festival; College of Letters, Arts and Social Sciences; and the Martin Institute. Jim

and Louise served as honorary cochairs of the "Campaign for Idaho" alongside Malcolm and Carol Renfrew and Frank and Harriett Shrontz from 2000 to 2004. The campaign was the first successful comprehensive campaign in University of Idaho history, thanks in large part to the efforts of the McClures and many other volunteers. Her service to the University of Idaho was honored with the President's Medallion, Alumni Hall of Fame Award, and Distinguished Idahoan Award. The university awarded her an honorary doctorate of Humane Letters in 2012 and chose her to be commencement speaker in 2014; and

WHEREAS, the McClures also worked tirelessly to establish the James A. and Louise McClure Center for Public Policy Research based at the University of Idaho, recognizing the importance of solid facts and well-researched science to making sound public policy decisions. Louise was gratified to see it become an important contribution to the development of public policy and understanding in Idaho; and

WHEREAS, throughout her life, Louise was an involved citizen, concerned about the civic life of our world. She always remained an engaged and engaging farm girl from a small town in Idaho who grew up to live a storied life, meeting presidents, the Pope, kings and queens, Mother Teresa, famous artists and musicians, and impacting the lives of so many people in Idaho and around the world. In addition to U.S. presidents and dignitaries, other notable international leaders and royalty she met include those from Britain, Egypt, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, and Thailand. Over her life, Louise visited more than 80 countries. Forging connections with the partners and families of world leaders was integral to Senator McClure's success, bridging policymaking and community making; and

WHEREAS, Louise passed away on September 19, 2021. Due to the pandemic, no services in honor of Louise were held. Louise is missed by her many friends, and in particular by her family, including her daughter Marilyn Roach (Randy), her son Ken (Sally), her son David (Cheryl), grandchildren Emily McClure (Trevor Lindsay), Katie Moon (Jarrett), Dillon Roach (Holly), Eileen Archer (Scott), Joel McClure (Shanin), Kevin McClure (Melissa), and seven great-grandchildren.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the members of the Second Regular Session of the Sixty-sixth Idaho Legislature, the House of Representatives and the Senate concurring therein, that the State of Idaho recognizes the outstanding contributions that Louise McClure made to the people of Idaho through her selfless public service and commitment to the arts.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Idaho Legislature will recognize March 30, 2022, as "Louise McClure Day" in honor of her extraordinary impact on Idaho and the world.